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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Garceau et al. Examiner: Green, Christy Marie

Serial No: 10/081,254 Art Unit: 3635

Filed: February 22, 2002

For: **REINFORCING BRACKET FOR A TRAILER FRAME**Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131 TO ESTABLISH COMPLETION OF THE  
INVENTION OF THIS APPLICATION IN THE UNITED STATES AT A DATE PRIOR  
TO OCTOBER 25, 2001**

We, Bernard F. Garceau and Jason D. Collins, declare:

- (1) That we are the co-inventors in the instant United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/081,254, filed February 22, 2002, and that we have read the specification including the claims of this application and are familiar with the contents thereof.
- (2) That we have read U.S. Patent No. 6,719,481 to Hoffman (hereinafter "Hoffman"), having a filing date of October 25, 2001, and are familiar with the contents thereof.
- (3) That, appended to this Declaration, is Exhibits A as identified below:  
  
Exhibit A - Copy of technical drawings illustrating the reinforcing bracket for trailer frames.
- (4) That the instant application provides a reinforcing bracket for trailer frames.

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- (5) That the technical drawings of Exhibit A illustrate the reinforcing bracket as described and claimed in the instant application.
- (6) That the redacted date of the technical drawings is prior to the effective filing date of Hoffman, specifically, prior to October 25, 2001.
- (7) That the invention as described and claimed in the instant application was reduced to practice prior to October 25, 2001.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the U.S.C. and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

8/23/04  
Date

Bernard F. Garceau  
Bernard F. Garceau

8/23/04  
Date

Jason D. Collins  
Jason D. Collins